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VETERANS CHEER TO ECHO YANKEE TRIBUTE TO LEE

Able Address of Charles
Francis Adams at Lex-
ington Celebration.

WOULD HAVE DONE
AS GEN. LEE DID

If That Is Regarded as Traitorous
Language Distinguished Rep-
resentative of All That Is
Best in New England
Says He Accepts
the Homage.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
LEXINGTON, VA., January 19.—The story of the life of Robert E. Lee was told to-day at his tomb in Lexington. The orator was a distinguished son of New England, whose ancestors for five generations have adorned the pages of American history. The Hon. Charles Francis Adams, of Massachusetts, grandson of Presidents, himself the head of the Massachusetts Historical Society, uttered thrilling words to-day before a cultured Virginia audience, in reciting the deeds of Robert E. Lee. The representative of New England culture and environment, addressing a Southern audience on the life and character of the great Confederate captain is of itself a dramatic situation.

And when that orator, with fervor and emphasis, declares that after "much patient study and most mature reflection, under similar conditions, I would myself have done exactly what Lee did," his audience was carried off its feet, thrilled by the very audacity of the utterance, and when he added, as if to give emphasis to the association, "such an utterance on my part may be traitorous, but I here render that homage," the vast throng applauded to the echo.

The celebration at Washington and Lee University of the centennial of the birth of General Lee, held in the Lee Memorial chapel this morning, was epochal. The time, the place, the environment, the visitors present, the participants, all combined to make the occasion memorable, and the impressions of the exercises, sacred to many and interesting to all, will linger like a benediction through all future life.

The old Confederate soldiers were present in goodly numbers, and many a tremulous lip and moistened eye bore mute testimony of the love and veneration with which General Lee was held by the men who followed him through the fiercest ordeal of battle, and who with unquenching faith, dared, even to his very order. To them Lee was the ideal soldier, the matchless captain, whose stern commands of duty were always softened by the loving tenderness of a sympathetic comrade.

Distinguished Audience.
Promptly at 11 o'clock the line of Confederate veterans, numbering 53, filed into the chapel at Washington and Lee, followed by the sons of Confederates, 16 in number.

The Daughters of the Confederacy, while not marching as such, were seated together in the chapel. Following these organizations, the board of trustees of Washington and Lee, headed by the rector, Dr. G. B. Strickler, of Richmond, and Judge W. P. Houston, of Lexington, marched from Newcomb Hall to the chapel, the student body, 415 strong, forming lines on each side of the walkway. Then followed the members of the faculty, in cap and gown, headed by President George H. Denny, who escorted the distinguished orator of the day, Charles Francis Adams, of Massachusetts, with members of the graduating classes, also capped and gowned, and the student body. Shortly thereafter every available seat in the large auditorium was taken, and many persons had to be turned away.

The decorations were simple, but in entire harmony with the spirit of the occasion. Confederate and United States flags; palms, evergreens and cut flowers decorated the platform, together with a handsome steel engraving of General Lee, the gift to the university students; also the beautiful bronze wreath from General Smythe, of England.

Unexpected Honor.
The formal exercises opened with prayer by Dr. Strickler, who was captain of the Liberty Hall volunteers, a company organized from among the students of the institution. General Lee's favorite hymn, "How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord," was sung by a choir of students.

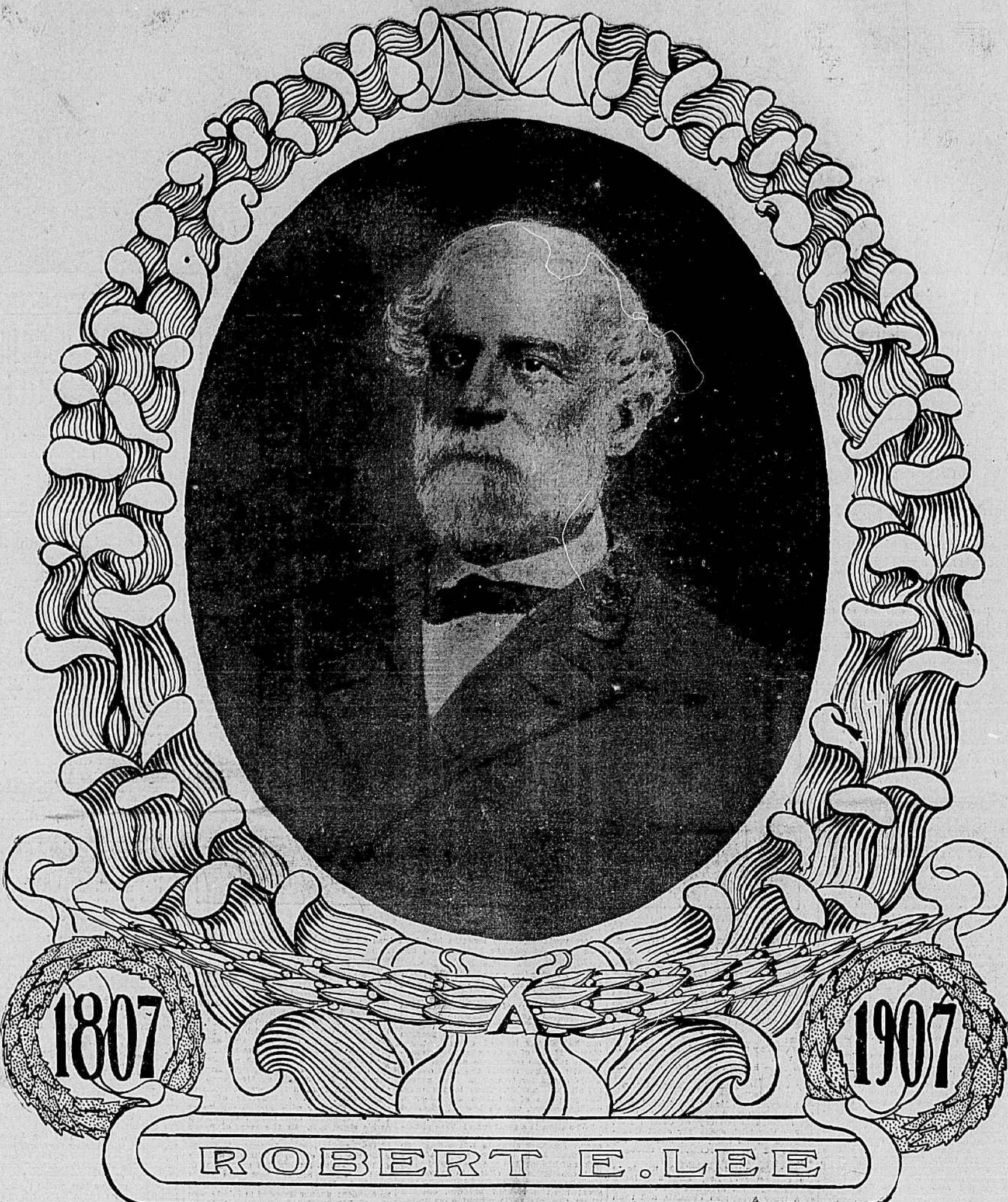
President Denny made an eloquent address in which he paid deserving tribute to the memory of General Lee, and closed by announcing the action of the board of trustees in conferring the degree of doctor of laws on Mr. Adams. Then followed the address of Mr. Adams, which consumed considerably more than an hour in delivery. The address is printed below in full.

President Denny, at the conclusion of Dr. Adams' speech, announced that the board of trustees had decided that the Lee Memorial Chapel in future would be devoted more exclusively as a depository of Lee mementoes.

Following the chapel exercises, the banquet given by the Sons of Confederates, assisted by the Daughters of the Confederacy, was held in the University gymnasium, in honor of the Confederate veterans and visitors. Mr. W. Paxton was master of ceremonies.

Following are the toasts: "The Confederate Veterans," Attorney-General William A. Anderson; "The Union Veterans," F. D. Millet, of New York; "The Confederate Navy," Dr. R. H. Fleming, of Lynchburg; "The Confederate Soldier," Colonel J. H. Dr. Ross. A toast was drunk, standing and in silence to the memory of General Lee, and a toast also to the Union soldier. About 200 covers were laid at the banquet.

Dr. Denny's Reception.
A reception was held from 6 to 7 o'clock at the home of President and Mrs. Denny, former home of General Lee, in honor of the veterans and sons of veterans, by the Mary Custis Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, and to



The Idea and the Character of Lee.

By WALTER EDWARD HARRIS.

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

For three-quarters of a century Washington was "first in the hearts of his countrymen." And then Lee came, and made his devoirs in the field of war. And since Appomattox his name has been inextricably entwined with that of the first great American rebel, and both are enshrined in the hearts of Southern people—Washington as the first type of the American freeman; Lee as the finest fruit of American civilization, a civilization born and nourished and brought to flower in greatest perfection in the soil of the Old South. His genius has made his name a household word wherever Anglo-Saxon blood courses, and his character has won admiration from his enemies of war.

A man who saw the light after the last sad scenes enacted at Appomattox must often strive to comprehend the feelings of the old Confederate soldier of to-day. When the ragged and starved veteran, heartick and homesick, had wrung the hand of "Marse Robert," and started on the weary tramp back to his ruined home, his government prostrate, his land scarred and bleeding after four years of fiercest war, his friends dead, his family suffering, life held precious little to allure. Four years of it had been given to the pursuit of an ideal, to a struggle to maintain an idea, and that idea he had seen overthrown, as though it were a tangible thing, to be handled and crushed beneath the hoof of war.

I like to think of the old veteran this morning, sitting in ease in his home, recalling the pleasant events of the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of his old commander, which he attended last night, perhaps, or reading of the celebrations of a similar character all over the South, and in the West, and far up in the North, whence came the legions whose shock broke his thin gray lines and struck the Stars and Bars to the dust. He lost that day at Appomattox, but his devotion to his country, and the character and genius of his old commander, are become the cherished heritage of Americans wherever the flag floats.

General Grant won his victory at Appomattox. General

Lee has died; but since he has passed from among men to the Valhalla of the immortals he has won a victory greater than that achieved by any soldier of history. Ask any intelligent American of to-day to name the greatest of all American soldiers, and he will not halt a moment—"Robert E. Lee." Years ago, when Appomattox was not nearly so remote as to-day, Theodore Roosevelt gave to Lee the first place in the long list of great soldiers of America, adding although the great captain who defeated him "was worthy to stand with Marlborough and Wellington."

In recent years orators and writers from that section which most bitterly opposed General Lee and his ideals forty years ago have equalled Southern people in extolling his character and his genius. This delayed tribute to the greatest American has gratified his old soldiers and their children; but the veteran must have, coupled with his sense of gratification and pride, the thought that he knew it all long ago; knew it when he followed him at Seven Pines, at Gettysburg, at the Wilderness, at Cold Harbor, and on a hundred other fields, the mere naming of which recalls countless incidents which illustrate the loyalty and the devotion and the valor of the soldier of the Confederacy, and the splendid pulse, the dazzling genius, the beautiful character of Robert E. Lee.

It took time to make the American people come to look upon the character of General Lee as it was viewed by his own people. But I was interested to find recently, in a letter written to General Halleck by General Grant from Richmond on the 6th of May, 1865, the following:

"Although it would meet with opposition in the North to allow Lee the benefit of amnesty, I think it would have the best possible effect towards restoring good feeling in the South to let him come in. All the people, except a few political leaders, will accept whatever he does as right, and will be guided to a great extent by his example."

General Grant knew, even then, how the people of the Southern country regarded General Lee. General Lee's fame has grown until the sound of it fills the world; but it has not grown among the people of the South. Ever since long before Appomattox they have looked upon him as the incarnation of military genius, the personification of those virtues

which lift good men above evil men, and they have come to clothe him with a royalty of character—a man who could do no wrong.

An idea is the greatest thing in the world, some philosopher has said. Character is the greatest thing in the world. An idea which is sent forth, representing the travail and prayers of him who has begotten it, may sway millions to its defense, and cause the earth to drink deep of the blood of those who would make it triumph. An idea, clothed in the mystic garb of religion, has overthrown and established kingdoms and upbuilt wonderful civilizations. But the idea has died through its own sophistry, the kingdoms have fallen, the civilizations have perished.

Character is eternal. It is both thought and action. It follows man to the open grave. It is the first to greet him in eternity.

Robert E. Lee was a slave to an idea. The sovereignty of the States composing the American Union he believed to be as firmly imbedded in our Constitution as the principle of free government. He gave up everything dear to a soldier, save honor, to establish that principle in America. He lost, but in the struggle for the victory he revealed to the world a character whose splendor has not been surpassed since history has been written among men.

Be not deceived. The rights of the individual States of this Union were never held less sacredly than to-day, nor did powers that be ever regard them more lightly. The fire has not gone out in the Temple of States' Rights, but it often flickers dimly, and almost disappears in the fierce glare of the furnace of Federalism. The idea, still cherished in the hearts of those who fought to maintain it forty years ago, is almost dead.

But the character of the man who led the armies that struggled to maintain the idea still lives, its beauties grow as they are better known. Study but reveals new ones. Contemplation but adds to our admiration.

An inspiration to every man who is an American—an example to every erring child of dust—a prayer for him who seeks the higher things of life—a prayer and a benediction—the character of Robert E. Lee.

RICHMOND PAYS TRIBUTE OF LOVE TO GREAT LEE

One-Time Capital of the
Confederate States
Celebrates.

NOTABLE SPEECHES;
IMPOSING SERVICES

People of All Classes and Con-
ditions Show Honor to Great
Chieftain — Members of
Family Present Dur-
ing Exercises.
Parade.

The one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of General Robert E. Lee was celebrated with appropriate exercises all over the South yesterday, especially in Virginia, and in no part of the State or in the country perhaps was the occasion more fittingly observed than in this city, the one-time capital of the Confederacy.

The day opened dark and gloomy. Heavy clouds hung over the city, and in the early morning there was a dense fog that made the face of the earth uninviting. Nevertheless the men who followed Lee in darker days than yesterday were early astir, and so were their children and children's children, who, to the everlasting honor of their forefathers, have been taught from infancy to love and reverence the name of the great chieftain. All were bent on doing honor to the man who led when real leaders were needed, and who, in all the trials and sufferings that came to a devotedly patriotic people, never wavered in his staunch allegiance to the right and the true.

Simple Program.
The arrangements that had been made and the program that had been outlined were simplicity itself, and well in accord with the life and character of the man who was to be honored.

The features of the day were in the nature of a continual sacred service, and the first of these was at Richmond College in the early morning. There the usual morning religious exercises were converted into simple exercises in honor of the greatest of modern soldiers and men.

It was known to only the "college family" that the morning service would be in the nature of a Lee memorial, but all the students were present, and so were the officials of the institution, including the professors and their families. The service was of the usual religious character, followed by short addresses by Dr. F. W. Boatwright, the president of the college; Dr. W. H. Whitsett and Dr. C. H. Ryland.

The main service of the day took place at St. Paul's Church, beginning at noon, and was attended by a vast concourse of people, including old veterans, members of the Confederate patriotic societies of various kinds, and as many people as the large auditorium could hold. The music and all the exercises were in keeping with the occasion, and the sermon of Bishop Randolph, of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, was an oration of rare merit.

There had been some uncertainty as to the parade in the afternoon that had been provided for in the published program. This was because of the inclemency of the weather. The men who were to be most conspicuous in the parade were the aged soldiers who followed Lee in the dark days. They are all old now, and many of them decrepit. These men could not turn out in bad weather, and a Lee day parade without the veterans would be impossible, and so it had been arranged between the executive committee and the chief marshal that in the event of rain at the appointed hour the parade would be abandoned. In the early afternoon the clouds rolled by, the sun came out just a little, and it became almost an ideal afternoon for just such a quiet demonstration as had been hoped for.

The arrangements for the parade were quickly completed and at the appointed hour the veterans, the local military, the bands of music, the drum corps, the young "Covenanters," the guests of honor, the officials of the patriotic societies and the people generally formed in line and moved up Franklin Street, to the magnificent Lee Monument, where the service was again simple and impressive. The floral tokens of love and affection that can never die as long as Virginia babies are taught to lip the name of Robert E. Lee, were laid at the base of the marble statue that shall speak his praises as long as the world stands.

After the Parade.
Perhaps the most delightful event of the day was that which took place at the rooms of the Virginia Historical Society in the afternoon after the parade. It had been announced that the society, which occupies the famous house No. 37 East Franklin Street, which was the home of the Lees in the sixties, would be presented with a painting of General Lee, made by Mrs. Andrews, the daughter of Dr. Minnegerode, who was General Lee's rector and pastor during the war.

About 5:30 o'clock a goodly company assembled in the rooms, and was called to order by Mr. Joseph Bryan. He announced in a few remarks that the gathering was to receive the picture presented by Mrs. Andrews.

The beautiful painting was unveiled by two little daughters of Captain Robert E. Lee, Jr., granddaughters of the great general, and they were introduced in an informal way to the audience by Miss Mary Lee, the general's daughter. The little girls gracefully pulled the cords that held the yelling over the magnificent picture, and Captain W. Gordon McCabe received it in the name of the society. Captain McCabe's address, in receiving the work of art, was a gem of oratory.

At 8 o'clock the men's club of the Second Baptist Church held a meeting, and heard addresses on General Lee by Thomas Nelson Page and Mr. E. V. Valentine; a poem by Mrs. Royster, and musical selections. This was followed by a reception in the parlors of the church. At 8:15 P. M. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, the camp of Sons of Veterans, and the Daughters of the Confederacy,

(Continued on Fourth Page.)